

Under the Patronage of Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen.

## The Burns Exhibition.

To be held in the Galleries of the Glasgow Institute of the Fine Arts, July till October, 1896.

*The Burns Exhibition*  
To the Editor of



Conservative Club

Kilmarnock

15th Nov. 92.

H. D. Colville Scott Esq  
The Mount.

Brookwood.

Surrey

Dear Sir

"The Kilmarnock  
Burns Monument  
Committee" would  
thank you for a check

Buckingham Palace SW.

*Copied my letter  
sent all over the  
world*

men and many others  
the forth coming  
Pictures etc.  
the Bard "the first  
Lage of Chelsea  
of his life  
to be held at  
shall therefore, as  
committee be very  
with any gentlemen  
who are willing  
list of Noblemen  
subscribed toward  
£5000. (present amount  
further the interests  
of Her Most Gracious  
Patron.  
etc

H. D. Colville Scott.

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**Joint Honorary Secretaries.**

CAPTAIN DAVID SNEDDON.

W. CRAIBE ANGUS,

Acting Secretary—ROBERT WALKER.

Office—175 Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow



mutual friend Mr.  
W. Amherst Angus is  
anxious that you sh<sup>d</sup>  
interest yourself in  
this matter; and let  
us hear from you at  
the earliest moment.

With best regards

I am Yrs faithfully

David McKim

---



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*To the Editor of*

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Patron.

*etc*  
*J. Colvill Scott.*

*Buckingham Palace SW.*

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if you would call at  
the British Museum  
(Francis B. Pickley  
department of M.S.S.)  
and examine the  
manuscripts as per  
enclosed list which  
we have sent them  
per post tonight, and  
give us your opinion  
as to their genuineness and  
market value. *Car*



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To the Editor of

THE CLUB,  
KILMARNOCK.

15th Nov 92

A.D. Colvill Scott Esq

Dear Sir,

It is singular that  
your note should have  
reached me this evening  
shortly after I had  
written to you at  
your Surrey address.

I beg to thank you

I remain your sincere friend

Buckingham Palace SW.

*Copied my letter  
sent all over the  
world of  
men and many others  
the forthcoming  
Pictures etc.  
the Bard "the first  
Lage of Chelsea  
of his life  
to be held at  
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Patron.*

*etc*  
D. Colvill Scott.

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for your kind expressions  
of sympathy in regard  
to my Municipal  
position. "Everything  
comes to him who waits  
provided he merits  
promotion, and as I  
am comparatively young  
I can afford to wait..."

He has forwarded  
his req to the M.S.S.  
Department of the  
British Museum &



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To the Editor of

number of Burns m.s.  
which have been offered  
to our Monument Com-  
mittee. Would you do  
me the favour of  
calling them tomorrow  
and giving us your  
opinion upon the lot.  
as to their genuineness  
and value. It is  
important that no  
time should be lost  
in getting your opinion  
and that of the  
I. W. Chambers

Buckingham Palace S.W.

Copied my letter  
sent all over the  
world

and many others  
to be forthcoming  
Pictures etc.  
Bard "the first  
Sage of Chelsea  
of his life  
to be held at  
hall therefore, as  
committee be very  
with any gentlemen  
who are willing  
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5000. (present amount)  
further the interests  
Her Most Gracious  
Patron.  
Majesty the Queen

to  
J. Colvill Scott.

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Authorities of the  
British Museum. —

Trusting you  
may be able and  
willing to oblige me  
with herbage

I am Dear Sir  
Yrs faithfully  
D. Mackenzie



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*The Burns Exhibition*  
To the Editor of

OFFICES OF THE  
Edinburgh Evening Dispatch.

Copy. Change of address.

NATIONAL LIBERAL CLUB,  
WHITEHALL PLACE, S.W.  
6.12.92.

My dear Sir, I have to acknowledge with the greatest pleasure the receipt of your letter. I hope that you will not think I am wanting in courtesy in not having congratulated you & having commiserated you & the staff of the "Dispatch" on the noble & successful efforts to stamp out the farious trade, which has been so fully & so admirably done - when the disclosures are republished in a more permanent form I shall hope to take a large number, which

1. Wellington Chambers

Buckingham Palace S.W.

*Copied my letter sent all over the world*  
en and many others the forthcoming Pictures etc. the Bard "the first Sage of Chelsea" of his life - to be held at - shall therefore, as committee be very with any gentlemen who are willing list of Noblemen subscribed towards £5000. (present amount) further the interests Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen Patron.

*etc*  
D. Colvill Scott.

Honorary Treasurer.

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Acting Secretary - ROBERT WALKER.

Office - 175 Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow



Authorities of the

which I shall have great pleasure  
in distributing among my friends.  
These things will always be  
cropping up in odd corners.  
I think Mackenzie's letter  
most unsatisfactory in  
every way & he must be  
brought down to his own  
low level. What if Smith turned  
a sort of Queen's Evidence etc?  
I will try to call & see Maude  
Thompson & Stittes ~~and~~ Papero  
if possible tho he might decline.  
Allow me to take this opportunity  
of tendering my sincere thanks  
for the very kind way in which  
you have spoken of my feeble  
efforts in this matter in the  
leading article of the Dispatch, in  
connecting with the name of Mr  
Craike Angus, who is worthy of the  
highest praise &c.



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*To the Editor of*

OFFICES OF THE  
Edinburgh Evening Dispatch.

26 COCKBURN STREET,

EDINBURGH.....189

Editions Published at 1 p.m., 3.30 p.m., 4.45 p.m., 6 p.m., and 7 p.m. Daily.  
And Special Editions at later hours as required.

Dear Sir

I have to  
apologise for not  
acknowledging your  
letter earlier, but  
as you can understand  
I have been extremely busy.  
I have spent  
very much time with me  
& of course he put  
me in possession of  
all your views & your  
kind intentions. Of course  
any expense to the  
paper has been put  
to be borne by the proprietors.

I. Wellington Chambers  
Buckingham Palace SW.

en and many others  
the forthcoming  
Pictures etc.  
Bard "the first  
Sage of Chelsea  
of his life +  
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J. Colvill Scott.

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### Joint Honorary Secretaries.

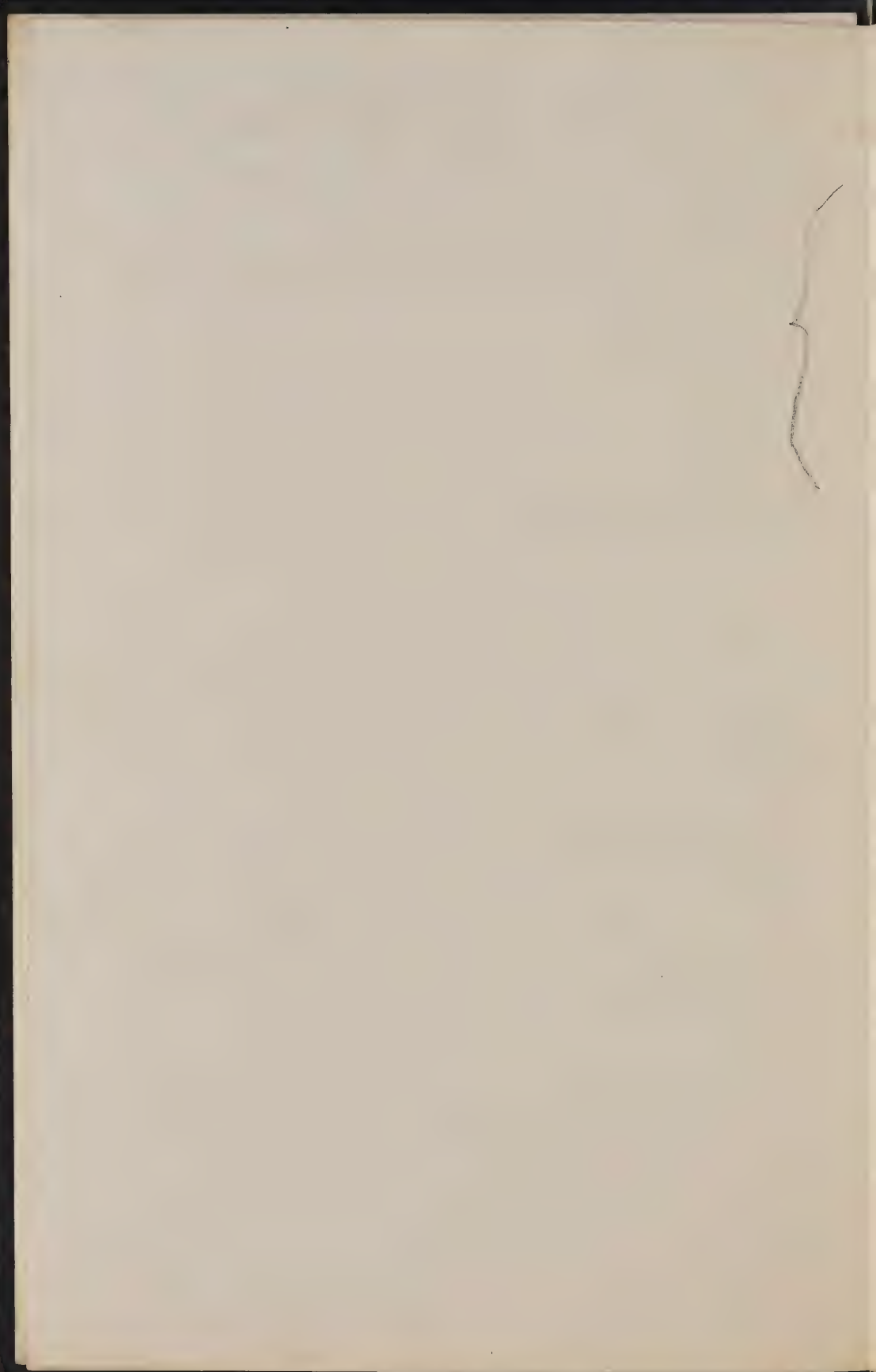
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The Burns Exhibition  
To the Editor of

who w<sup>d</sup> not consent  
to its being defrayed by  
anyone else. We intend  
also to reproduce the  
disclosures in some  
permanent form at  
some small rate  
sufficient to cover  
the cost, but of this  
more anon, as it  
may be desirable to  
wait for the trial. And  
the Police tell me that  
Smith is to be arrested  
this afternoon.

You w<sup>d</sup> see from  
the dispatch of today that  
Mackenz is has been bro<sup>t</sup>  
to his knees, but his  
submitting calls forth  
a wry face. He is an  
ill-conditioned person  
& deserves no more.  
I hope you & Angus

en and many others  
the forthcoming  
Pictures etc.  
Bard "the first  
Sage of Chelsea  
of his life +  
— to be held at  
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J. Colvill Scott.

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Buckingham Palace SW.

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with if possible not  
speak of not spare  
him, he is lying or  
concealing abominably.

I fancy however  
that the whole business  
of the brought out at  
the trial is now  
certain.

Maunde Thompson  
of the British Museum  
has at present three  
of Millie's chief  
known specimens  
including "Tam O'  
Shanter" testing them.  
I expect the result in  
a day or two. That  
result will decide  
Millie's lot.

Yours faithfully  
Alex. Reach  
Editor E.D.

---



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### The Burns Exhibition

To the Editor of

Sir.

all patriotic Scotsmen and many others are looking forward to the forthcoming Exhibition of Relics, MSS Pictures etc, relating to the <sup>life & works of the</sup> National Bard "the first of our songwriters", as the Sage of Chelsea & most luminous illustrator of his life & writings, called him — to be held at Glasgow (July-Oct.) I shall therefore, as Secretary <sup>Office of the Exhibition</sup> to the London Committee be very glad to correspond with any gentlemen who possess Relics etc or who are willing to add their names to the list of Noblemen & Gentlemen who have subscribed towards the Guarantee Fund of £5000. (present amount £ ) or in any way further the interests of the Exhibition to which Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen has given her name as Patron.

I am, etc

A. D. Colvill Scott.

1. Wellington Chambers  
Buckingham Palace SW.

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## The Burns Exhibition.

AND<sup>Y</sup> J. KIRKPATRICK,  
Chairman of Executive Committee.  
CAPTAIN DAVID SNEDDON, } Joint  
W. CRAIBE ANGUS, } Hon<sup>y</sup> Secretaries.

175 Sauchiehall Street.  
*Glasgow.* 189



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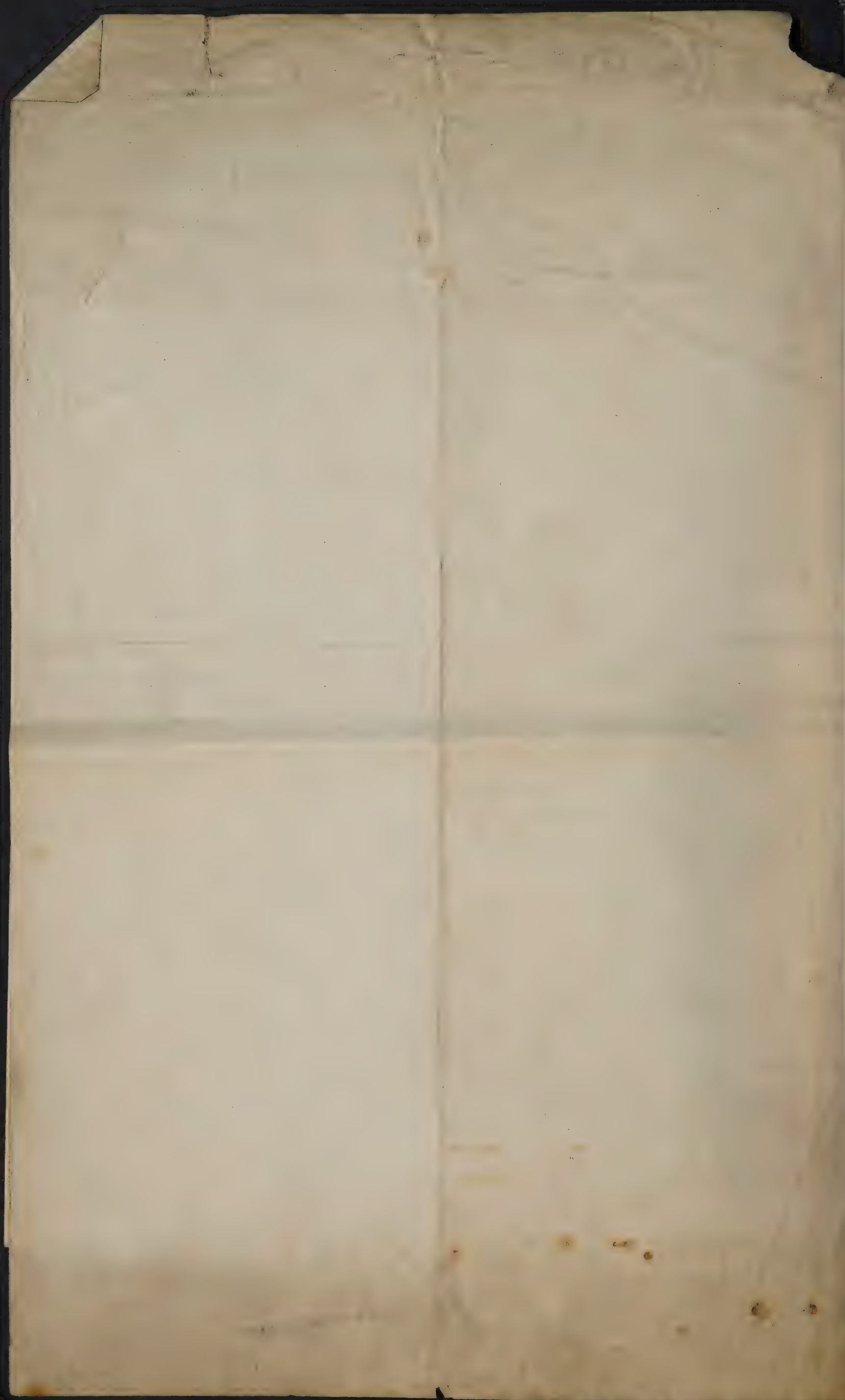
CAPTAIN DAVID SNEDDON.

W. CRAIBE ANGUS,

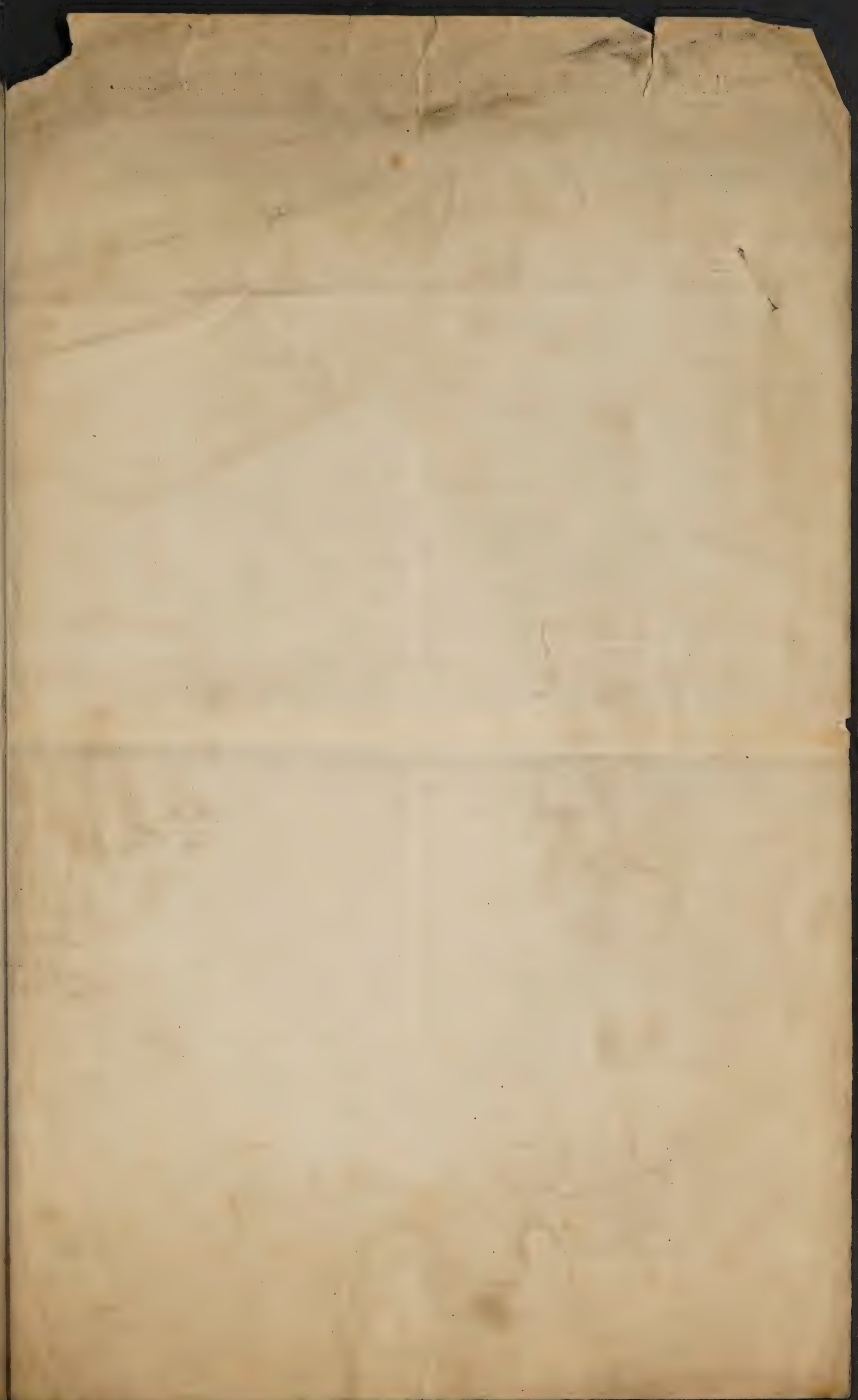
Acting Secretary—ROBERT WALKER.

Office—175 Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow











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" 1 The London Robert Burns Club.	" 24 Glasgow Bank Burns Club.	" 48 Paisley Burns Club.
" 2 Alexandria Burns Club.	" 25 Winnipeg St. Andrew's Society.	" 49 Bridgeton Burns Club.
" 3 Glasgow Tam O'Shanter Club.	" 26 Perth Burns Club.	" 50 Stirling Burns Club.
" 4 Callander Burns Club.	" 27 Glasgow Springburn Burns Club.	" 51 Chicago Caledonian Society.
" 5 Earlston Burns Club.	" 28 The Jolly Beggars Burns Club, Mauchline.	" 52 Dumfries Mechanics' Burns Club.
" 6 Alloa Burns Haggis Club.	" 29 Bolton Federated Burns Club.	" 53 Govan Fairfield Burns Club.
" 7 Glasgow Thistle Burns Club.	" 30 Blackburn Burns Club.	" 54 St. Johnstone Burns Club, Perth.
" 8 Morpeth and District Burns Club.	" 31 San Francisco Scottish Thistle Club.	" 55 Derby Burns Club.
" 9 Glasgow Royalty Burns Club.	" 32 Newark Caledonian Club.	" 56 Muirkirk Laipraik Burns Club.
" 10 Dumbarton Burns Club.	" 33 Glasgow Haggis Club.	" 57 Thornliebank Burns Club.
" 11 Chesterfield Burns Club.	" 34 Glasgow Carrick Burns Club.	" 58 Kirkcaldy Burns Club.
" 12 Barrow-in-Furness Burns Club.	" 35 Dalry Burns Club.	" 59 Gourcock Jolly Beggars Burns Club.
" 13 St. Andrews Burns Club.	" 36 Glasgow Rosebery Burns Club.	" 60 Wolverhampton Burns Club.
" 14 Dundee Burns Club.	" 37 Dollar Burns Club.	" 61 Glencairn Burns Club, Glasgow.
" 15 Belfast Burns Club.	" 38 Glasgow "Jolly Beggars" Burns Club.	" 62 Cupar Burns Club.
" 16 Sydney Burns Club.	" 39 Glasgow "St. David's" Burns Club.	" 63 Glasgow Mossiel Burns Club.
" 17 Nottingham Scottish Society Burns Club.	" 40 Aberdeen Burns Club.	" 64 Beith Burns Club.
" 18 Liverpool Burns Club.	" 41 Dennistoun Burns Club.	" 65 Musselburgh and Fisherrow Burns Club.
" 19 Auckland Burns Club and Literary Society.	" 42 Crieff Burns Club.	" 66 Crossgates Burns Club.
" 20 Airdrie Burns Club.	" 43 Glasgow Northern Burns Club.	" 67 Carlton Burns Club.
" 21 Greenock Burns Club.	" 44 Forfar Burns Club.	" 68 Glasgow Sandford Burns Club.
" 22 Edinburgh Burns Club.	" 45 Cumnock Burns Club.	" 69 Dunedin Burns Club.
	" 46 Warwickshire Burns Club.	" 70 St. Rollox Jolly Beggars.

Stephen Adam, 231 St. Vincent Street.  
George Aikman, A.R.S.A., 8 Forth Street, Edinburgh.  
James Aitken, 220 St. Vincent Street.  
James A. Aitken, R.S.W., 116 Mains Street, Blythswood Square.  
Robert Alexander, R.S.A., Edinburgh.  
Major F. W. Allan, 125 Buchanan Street.  
Alexander Anderson, Secretary, Edinburgh University.  
Daniel Anderson, Solicitor, British Linen Bank, Dunoon.  
Robert Anderson, *Free Press*, Aberdeen.  
Wm. Anderson, Springburn.  
Wm. Halson Anderson, Provost of Anstruther, Easter.  
Basil Anderton, B.A., Chief Librarian, Public Library, Newcastle.  
James Angus, 22 Ratho Terrace, Springburn.  
George Arthur, Provost of Airdrie.  
George Bain, Secretary, Burns Club, Ayr.  
Marcus Bain, Woodside, Mauchline.  
John Ballinger, Librarian, Central Library, Cardiff.  
F. T. Barrett, Mitchell Library.  
A. Malloch Bayne, 13 Kelvin Drive.  
Colonel Robert J. Bennett, Gordon Street.  
R. Marr Benzie, 19 Millbrae Crescent, Langside.  
H. J. Blanc, R.S.A., Edinburgh.  
Thomas Bonnar, Edinburgh.  
J. Potter Briscoe, F.R.H.S., Central Free Public Library, Nottingham.  
A. K. Brown, A.R.S.A., Helensburgh.  
Kellock Brown, 138 Wellington Street.  
W. Beattie Brown, R.S.A., Edinburgh.  
R. H. Brechin, 22 Circus Drive.  
Robert Brydall, 8 Newton Terrace.  
George Burrell, 54 George Square, Glasgow.  
Baillie Burt, Bothwell.  
D. Y. Cameron, R.P.E., 217 West George Street.  
Councillor Angus Campbell, 48 West Regent Street.  
Jas. E. Christie, 81 St. Vincent Street.  
R. M. G. Coventry, R.S.W., 176 Bath Street.  
Peter Cowell, Librarian, Free Public Library, Liverpool.  
James Cowan, Rosshall.  
C. Crinean, 197 Ingram Street.  
William Crowther, Librarian and Curator, Public Library and Museum, Derby.  
R. A. Cruikshank, Ardbeg, Kilmun.  
H. Cuthbertson, 11 Gloucester Terrace, Newcastle.  
James Dewar, 2 College Green, Belfast.  
T. W. Dewar, Linthouse, West Calder.  
J. Dick, North Eastern Banking Company, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.  
James Dickson, Provost of Galashiels.  
Alex. A. E. Downie, Commercial Bank of Scotland, Gallowgate.  
Thomas Dunlop, 70 Wellington Street, Glasgow.  
Patrick S. Dunn, 107 St. Vincent Street.  
Thomas Ferguson, Nursery Mills, Kilmarnock.  
Henry Ferry, 89 Bath Street.  
J. Steel Fisher, M.A., 15 Ure Place, Glasgow.  
Dr. Fraser, Harcourt Street, Dublin.  
J. W. Fraser, 168 West George Street.  
Melville Fraser, 31 St. Vincent Place, Glasgow.  
Wm. Freeland, *Evening Times*.  
David Fulton, R.S.W., 183 West George Street.  
J. Leiper Gemmill, 162 St. Vincent Street.  
Thomas Gentles, Sauchiehall Street.  
Andrew Gibson, Belfast.  
E. Gilchrist, 4 Somerville Place, Glasgow.  
W. G. Gillies, 65 West Regent Street.  
The Rev. John Glasse, 16 Tantallon Place, Edinburgh.  
Thomas Grant, 322 St. Vincent Street.  
George Gray, 72 Hutcheson Street.  
William Grimmond, 271 Sauchiehall Street.  
Thomas Greenwood, Frith Knowe, Elstree, Herts.  
Thomas Guille, Guille-Alles Library, Guernsey.  
James Guthrie, R.S.A., 7 Woodside Place.  
William J. Halliday, Provost of Lochmaben.  
William Hamilton, 58 Renfield Street.  
Thomas W. Hand, Curator, The Corporation Art Gallery, Oldham.  
C. Martin Hardie, R.S.A., Edinburgh.  
A. R. Henderson, 60 North Street.  
Joseph Henderson, R.S.W., 11 Blythswood Square.  
Rev. Kirkwood Hewat, Free Church Manse, Prestwick.  
Rev. J. C. Higgins, The Manse, Tarbolton.  
Hugh Hopkins, West Regent Street.  
Thomas Hunt, R.S.W., 227 West George Street.  
John Hunter, J.P., Kilmarnock.  
Wm. R. Hunter, 69 Albert Road, Crosshill.  
P. M. Inglis, 23 Park Circus.  
J. S. Jamieson, Partick.  
Henry Johnston, 125 Buchanan Street.  
George W. Johnstone, R.S.A., Edinburgh.  
William Kennedy, 24 Waddell Street.  
John Keppie, I.A., 42 St. James Street, Hillhead.  
Thomas Kerr, Camden Street Public School.  
Thomas Killin, 168 West George Street.  
A. J. Kirkpatrick, 179 West George Street.  
James Laidlaw, Provost of Jedburgh.  
James G. Laing, R.S.W., 164 Bath Street.  
A. C. Lamb, Dundee.  
The Very Rev. John Marshall Lang, D.D., 5 Woodlands Terrace.  
William Laird, 168 West George Street.

William Lang, F.C.S., Crosspark, Partick.  
John Lavery, R.S.A., 248 West George Street.  
John Law, 531 Springburn Road.  
Andrew Lawson, West Grove, Maxwelltown, Dumfries.  
T. H. Longfield, Museum, Dublin.  
D. F. Lowe, M.A., Edinburgh.  
Allan M'Beth, Principal of Athenaeum School of Music.  
D. Murray Lyon, Edinburgh.  
Ben. H. Mullen, M.A., Curator, Salford Borough Royal Museum and Library.  
Tom MacEwan, R.S.W., 113 West Regent Street.  
Duncan Mackellar, R.S.W., 257 West George Street.  
John M'Kie, M.B.C.M., Florence Bank, Springburn.  
W. A. Scott Mackirdy, Birkwood, Lesmahagow.  
Allan M'Lean, 41 West George Street.  
J. MacLauchlan, Secretary, Albert Institute, Dundee.  
James J. MacLehose, M.A., 61 St. Vincent Street.  
The Right Rev. Donald MacLeod, D.D., 1 Woodlands Terrace.  
John M. MacLeod, C.A., 101 St. Vincent Street.  
F. K. Macpherson, Schoolmaster, Tarbolton.  
Councillor M'Lardy, Glasgow.  
W. S. M'Millan, 102 Bath Street.  
J. MacNaught Campbell, Kelvingrove Museum.  
John M'Neill, Pollokshields.  
William MacTaggart, R.S.A., Dean Park, Broomieknowe, Edinburgh.  
J. MacWhirter, R.A., 1 Abbey Road, St. John's Wood, London.  
E. H. M'K. Matheson, Provost of Tain.  
Hamilton Maxwell, R.S.W., Glasgow Art Club.  
Thomas Menzies, F.E.I.S., Rector, Hutcheson's Grammar School.  
A. H. Millar, Advertiser Office, Dundee.  
John Miller, 40 West Nile Street.  
J. O. Mitchell, LL.D., 69 E. Howard Street.  
William Moore, Provost of Lauder.  
John Morgan, Rubislaw House, Aberdeen.  
George Morton, Wilmore, Hillhead.  
J. B. Morrison, Greenock.  
Daniel Munro, 39 Hope Street.  
J. M. Munro, 4 Wilton Mansions, Kelvinside.  
J. Barclay Murdoch, Capelrig, Mearns.  
George G. Napier, M.A., 9 Woodside Place.  
Fras. H. Newbery, Glasgow School of Art.  
Pollok S. Nisbet, A.R.S.A., Edinburgh.  
Richard Niven, Airlie House, Ayr.  
J. C. Noble, R.S.A., Edinburgh.  
Robert Noble, A.R.S.A., Edinburgh.  
J. G. Orchar, Dundee.  
Alexander N. Paterson, M.A., 136 Wellington Street.  
James Paterson, A.R.S.A., Killniness, Moniaive.  
Robert Phillips, Bank of Scotland, Sauchiehall Street.  
John Pink, Librarian, Free Library, Cambridge.  
George Pirie, 134 Bath Street.  
John Primrose, Solicitor, Dumfries.  
Wellwood Rattray, A.R.S.A., 7 Nelson Terrace, Hillhead.  
G. O. Reid, A.R.S.A., Edinburgh.  
Thomas Reid, *Glasgow Herald*.  
R. M. Renwick, Eastern Telegraph Company.  
Robert Renwick, Depute Town Clerk, City Chambers.  
J. Wright Robb, 49 West George Street.  
Alex. F. Roberts, Provost of Selkirk.  
David Robertson, 94 Mitchell Street.  
D. Robertson, A.R.S.A., Edinburgh.  
David Ross, LL.D., Established Church Normal School.  
David Russel, 1 Seton Street, Ardrossan.  
W. D. Scoular, Dutch Mills, Ayr.  
Edward Service, 10 Bowmont Gardens.  
William Shirreffs, 207 W. Campbell Street.  
Michael Simons, 206 Bath Street, Glasgow.  
J. Orr Sinclair, Breaksplough, Stevenston.  
Alexander Skirving, I.A., 121 West Regent Street, Glasgow.  
John Smart, R.S.A., Edinburgh.  
Rev. Thos. Somerville, M.A., Blackfriars Church.  
Robert Sorley, 1 Buchanan Street.  
Rev. James Stalker, D.D., Glasgow.  
D. W. Stevenson, R.S.A., Edinburgh.  
R. Macaulay Stevenson, Robinsfield, by Milngavie.  
W. Grant Stevenson, R.S.A., 34 Haymarket Terrace, Edinburgh.  
Rev. Dr. Stewart, Nether Lochaber.  
Philip Sulley, Dumfries.  
Charles W. Sutton, Free Reference Library, Manchester.  
J. D. Taylor, Glasgow Art Club.  
Andrew Terrace, Provost of Dysart.  
David Tullis, Glencairn, Burnside.  
W. M. Vallentine, Provost of Brechin.  
G. B. Waddell, 110 John Street, Glasgow.  
Alexander Walker, LL.D., Aberdeen.  
R. Walker, 175 Sauchiehall Street.  
Wm. Wallace, *Glasgow Herald*.  
John Watson, 205 West George Street.  
Adam White, Sudbrooke, Nithsdale Road.  
T. N. Whitelaw, Rowmore, Row.  
Alex. Willison, Easterhill, Dalry.  
Adam Wood, Portland Villa, Troon.  
John Wordie, West Nile Street.  
Wm. Young, R.S.W., 65 West Regent Street.

N.B.—A further circular, with a complete list of the various Committees, will be issued at an early date.



John Hagg,  
TOWN CHAMBERLAIN.

Corporation Office,  
Kilmarnock 15<sup>th</sup> May 1892

H. Colville Scott Esq  
Brookwood  
Surrey

Sir  
3

I send herewith an inventory of  
6 Burns Manuscripts which have been offered to  
the Burns Monument Committee of this town,

As instructed by my Committee I have  
forwarded them to Mr Francis B Bickley, Department  
of Manuscripts British Museum London to obtain  
his opinion regarding them,

I am requested to ask if you would kindly call  
at the Museum to see them and inform me  
what you think they would bring were they disposed  
for sale in your rooms.

I have advised Mr Bickley that you  
may probably call.

I am  
Yours truly  
J. Hagg

one for  
Manuscripts this way.



**General Committee** (as at present organised).

THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF BURNS FEDERATION, AND THE PRESIDENTS, VICE-PRESIDENTS, AND SECRETARIES OF THE FEDERATED CLUBS ARE, *ex officio*, MEMBERS OF THIS COMMITTEE:—

*Members of the Executive Council of the Burns Federation.*

*President*—Peter Sturrock, Esq., Kilmarnock. *Vice-Presidents*—R. W. Cochran Patrick, Esq., LL.D.; Edward Combes, Esq., C.M.G.; Rev. William Dunnott, M.A.; Robert Goudie, Esq., Ayr; Colin Rae-Brown, Esq. *Honorary Secretary*—Captain David Sneddon. *Honorary Treasurer*—Captain Arthur Sturrock, Kilmarnock. *Editor, "Annual Burns Chronicle"*—D. M'Naught, Esq., J.P. *Members*—Provost David Mackay; George Dunlop, Esq.; John Baird, Esq., J.P.; John Newlands, Esq.; Dr. William Findlay; Dr. James Adams; W. Craibe Angus.

James Laidlaw, Provost of Jedburgh.  
James G. Laing, R.S.W., 164 Bath Street.  
A. C. Lamb, Dundee.  
The Very Rev. John Marshall Lang, D.D., 5 Woodlands Terrace.  
William Laird, 168 West George Street.

J. N. Whitehead, Rowinore, Row.  
Alex. Willison, Easterhill, Dalry.  
Adam Wood, Portland Villa, Troon.  
John Wordie, West Nile Street.  
Wm. Young, R.S.W., 65 West Regent Street.

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428 wapo  
1937

THE BURNS EXHIBITION.

To the Editor of

May 1896

Sir,

All patriotic Scotsmen and many others are looking forward to the forthcoming Exhibition of Relics, MSS, Pictures &c., relating to the National Bard, "the first of all Songwriters" as the Sage of Chelsea, and most luminous illustrator of his Life and Writings called him; to be held at Glasgow (July-October). I shall therefore as honorary Secretary to the London Committee be very glad to correspond with any gentlemen who possess Relics &c, or who are willing to add their names to the list of Noblemen and gentlemen who have subscribed towards the guarantee Fund of £5,000 (present amount £ ), or in any other way further the interest of the Exhibition to which Her Most Gracious Majesty has given her name as Patron.

I am, &c.,

A. D. Coburn Scott:

1896.

1, Wellington Chambers,  
Buckingham Gate, S.W.

one to  
Manuscript this way.



**General Committee** (as at present organised).

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THE FEDERATED CLUBS ARE, *ex officio*, MEMBERS OF THIS COMMITTEE:—

*Members of the Executive Council of the Burns Federation.*

*President*—Peter Sturrock, Esq., Kilmarnock. *Vice-Presidents*—R. W. Cochran Patrick, Esq., LL.D.; Edward Combes, Esq., C.M.G.;  
Rev. William Dunnett, M.A.; Robert Goudie, Esq., Ayr; Colin Rae-Brown, Esq. *Honorary Secretary*—Captain David Sneddon. *Honorary  
Treasurer*—Captain Arthur Sturrock, Kilmarnock. *Editor, "Annual Burns Chronicle"*—D. McNaught, Esq., J.P. *Members*—Provost David

*R. G. McIntyre, Treasurer.*  
The Very Rev. John Marshall Lang, D.D., 5 Woodlands Terrace.  
William Laird, 168 West George Street.

*John W. Young, Secy.*  
John W. Young, West Nile Street.  
Wm. Young, R.S.W., 65 West Regent Street.

N.B.—A further circular, with a complete list of the various Committees, will be  
issued at an early date.





Registered at the General Post-Office as a Newspaper.

SATURDAY, JUNE 25, 1892.

# AYRSHIRE NOTES AND QUERIES.

## IMPORTANT BURNSIANA "FIND."

### OLD MINUTE BOOK OF MAUCHLINE CONVERSATION SOCIETY.

By favour of Mr John Love, junr., a native of this district, from New South Wales (son of Mr John Love, Harford)—at present on a visit to his friends in that locality—we are enabled to lay before our readers copious details of an interesting Burnsiana "find" made by that gentleman in Victoria, in the shape of the old minute-book of a Mauchline Conversation or Debating Society which no doubt owed its existence to the Poet and his brother Gilbert. The manner in which the book came into Mr Love's possession is described as follows in a letter addressed by him to the *Kilmarnock Standard*—

"Some time ago I travelled from Northern Queensland to the 'back country' of New South Wales, between the rivers Lachlan and Murrumbidgee, a distance of 2000 miles, to visit the sheep station as a teacher. Mr David Boyd of Uley, an old Kilmarnock man, and whilst there I met Mr William Fisher of Ellerslie, a neighbouring squatter. In all matters pertaining to Burns Mr Fisher is a great enthusiast, and one evening when discussing our national poet, a subject of never-falling interest to the Scot abroad, he produced the old book in question, which he informed me he had received from a Mauchline man in Victoria, whose name at the moment I forget. I stated that I could afford to look at it, and in my way, and when he offered to loan it to me I did not hesitate to accept it on condition that when I arrived in Scotland I would place it before your good selves or your authorities on such matters, and advise him of your verdict as to its value as a relic of the time of Burns. Here it might interest you to know that the book was rescued about Aulickloch, and whilst still a young man he emigrated to Victoria."

The "old book," which contains as many evidences of intellectual activity in Mauchline as a century ago, is not a common past-book, but, as its contents were presumably intended for (and were) used as a text-book, with the old-fashioned flap with which we are familiar in some ancient pocket copies of the Bible. The paper is of a fine quality, although otherwise the book is in excellent condition. The penmanship throughout is of the most part clear and legible, though the various entries frequently differ in the character of the hand, sometimes being executed with the boldness and confidence of the ready scribe, and again with a timid and under the influence of less familiarity with the pen. There are likewise different degrees of proficiency in the art of spelling, which are again evidence of the lively correspondence as a rule with the freedom and stiffness of the calligraphy. Those ploughmen and tradespeople in and around Mauchline whose association in the pursuit of knowledge is here chronicled, were doubtless influenced by the example of their compatriots at Tarbolton, who, at the instigation and under the inspiring guidance of "Rob Mossiegl," had formed themselves for similar purposes into the Mauchline Club. The names of the members, however, is not so traceable in the rules and constitution of the Mauchline Society, which in their less copious and less ambitious statement, assure more of the docile and moderate spirit of Gilbert Burns than of the soaring and fervid genius of his elder brother Robert. The names of the latter do not appear in the list of original members, and there is no indication that he was ever present at any of the meetings. Gilbert, indeed, appears to have been the moving and sustaining influence among this Mauchline society, a faithful and regular share of the discussions to which the monthly meetings were devoted, abating himself only when sterner duties claimed his attention.

The reasons for Robert's non-appearance among them are not far to seek. The date of their first meeting is 30th October, 1786—an ominous month in a momentous year for the Poet, who at that period was passing through some of the darkest and most hopeless experiences of his checkered life. During that October, Mary Campbell had died, whose name and memory though he cherished it sacredly in the shrine of imagination till the end of his days, suggest to us other relationships, at this time in his most unhappy phase, which had caused Burns to publish his poems in Kilmarnock in August that he might raise some guineas to purchase a passage to the West Indies. On the night of the 30th October he indited his epistle to Major Logan, in which he refers to his projected emigration and his unalloyed amours with the levity he could so well afford:

"My loss I mourn, but not regret it;  
I'll seek my nurse when I am dead;  
I'll leave my nurse when I am dead;  
I'll leave my nurse when I am dead."

The Mauchline Club therefore was begun at a time when Burns had his hands full and his mind distracted by untoward events. But as it was the "milkiest hour" in the night of his troubles, it was also doubly precious to him. From the 30th October till the 27th November the train of events occurred which led up to his departure for Edinburgh on the 1st December, there to be introduced to the great contemporary world of letters, and to take part in scenes very different from those which he had known in the quiet of his native village. The list of members in the minute-book is interesting facts relating to the ups and downs of the Society. The hour of meeting varied with the season and the length of the day, ranging from 5.30 in Winter to 7.30 in Summer, or as it is sometimes expressed in the quaintest language of an old countryman, "half six to half eight" o'clock. On several occasions the attendance has been so small that the discussion of the question of the evening is postponed, and during the last year which the record covers Gilbert Burns is frequently a participant in the debates, modestly dubbed "conversations." His own associates at Mauchline no doubt had something to do with his absence at various times, as we find him writing to Robert at Ellerslie as early as Sept. 4, 1790, that he is "much distressed with the bad weather," and evidently weighed down by the manifold cares of an anxious husbandman. The employment of the fines imposed for non-attendance without excuse in the purchase of books, which formed a sort of library in connection with the Society, is interesting, as the members' personal of those publications would keep them in touch with the great world of the metropolis, to which they were now fondly linked by the figure that "Mossiegl" was cutting among its big wig and nobility. The minute-book contains a statement of accounts, showing sums received by way of fines, entry money, &c., and items of outlay. Among the latter are: Purchase of the "Mirror" and "Lounger," 17s 6d; Rousseau's "Emile" and Voltaire's "Histoire de l'homme," 12s 6d; "The American Wanderer," 6s 3d; "The Man of Feeling," 3s; and purchasing and binding five volumes of Sir John Stedman's "Statistical Account of Scotland," 21s 7s 6d.

Dr Currie, in his memoirs of the poet, mentions the Society as being still in existence at the time at which he wrote (1800), and its name appears in the list of subscribers to Currie's edition of Burns's Works. This minute-book extends only till Nov. 20, 1787. Dr Currie remarks: "After the family of our bard removed from Tarbolton to the neighbourhood of Mauchline, he and his brother were requested to assist in forming a similar institution there. The regulations of the club at Mauchline were nearly the same as those of the club at Tarbolton, but one laudable alteration was made. The dues for non-attendance had at Tarbolton been spent in enlarging their scanty potatoes. At Mauchline it was fixed that the money so arising should be set apart for the purchase of books, and the first work procured in this manner was the *Mirror*, the separate numbers of which were at that time recently collected and published in volumes. After it, followed a number of other works, chiefly of the same nature, and among these the *Lounger*." It is added: "Though the records of the Society at Tarbolton are lost, and those of the Society at Mauchline have not been transmitted, yet we may safely affirm that our poet was a distinguished member of both these Associations, which were well calculated to excite and to develop the powers of his mind." It will be seen that Dr Currie's hypothesis is incorrect, as the poet (no doubt from the circumstances above alluded to) does not seem to have attended any of the meetings of the Society. The following is the constitution of the club—

#### RULES OF THE CLUB.

"In order to promote friendship and society, and under subscribers, having for some time formed a club, for the sake of regularity do agree to commit the regulations to writing, which are as follow—

"That they shall meet once a month in the house of Charles Paton, or any other public house in Mauchline they shall think convenient, for the purpose of raising on a given thesis or question which may be on an innocent subject. The manner of proposing shall be thus:—If it be a question between two opposite opinions, the president shall ask each member which side of the argument he means to take, after which they shall deliver their opinions one on each side alternately till they have all spoken the president giving his opinion the last. They shall then fix on some thesis or question for

next meeting. The president or any other member may propose one, and that which shall have the approbation of the majority shall stand for the subject of conversation at next meeting. They shall next choose a president for next meeting in the same manner, who shall have two votes as any of the club's proceedings in case a party is not present. The president for the day and hour of next meeting, conclude with writing down the proceedings of the meeting in their book of records, which shall be given to the new elected president; no person having liberty to depart before the business is over without leave from the president.

"Every member who is appointed sending his excuse in writing shall pay a fine of three pence into the hands of one of the members of the club appointed for the purpose, and every member who coming or sending excuse after the hour appointed, to pay in like manner three-half pence, these fines to be kept and applied to the purchase of such books as the club shall think fit, to remain the property of the club while it remains, which shall be while any three of its members are willing to continue. Any member being absent three meetings shall be written by the president whether he means to leave the club."

"Any member intending to impede another, or settle any new regulation, or new member, or introduce any extraordinary affair of the club, shall intimate his intention a meeting previous to such motions being made, when the decision of a majority of the then present members shall stand in all cases except the admission of a new member, who must have the unanimous assent of all the members of the club, and every new member admitted shall pay into the funds of the club a sum equal to the fund of the club, divided by the number of members, and signify his assent to the rules of the club by subscribing his name thereto, as we the original members do—

David Sillar	William Paton
Gilbert Burns	David Stevenson
John Sillar	William Morton
James Wilson	James Wilson
James Hunter	John Begg
William Lindsay	John Andrew
Ralph Sillar	Robert Andrew
John Stevenson	Andrew Morton
John Wilson	William Watson
Robert Paton	James Miller
Alexander Wilson	William Mann

The original members were the first ten whose names appear in the above list, the other names having been added at various times, and every member who is in turn appointed his signature to the rules.

In what follows we give the minutes of the first two meetings in full, and extracts from the rest, showing the dates of the meetings, the name of the president on each occasion, and the subjects of discussion. These are curious, in many instances in tone, and throw an interesting light on the habits of thought and feeling which prevailed in the country districts of Scotland a century ago.

#### EXTRACTS FROM MINUTES.

1786.  
"October 30th, 1786, being the first meeting of the club. After agreeing to write their proceedings, they debated on the following question, viz.: 'Whether between two friends who have entire confidence in each other they ought to be any reserve?' At the hour appointed appeared Ralph Sillar (president), Gilbert Burns, John Sillar, David Sillar, James Hunter; after John Wilson, William Lindsay, John Stevenson, James Wilson; Robert Paton sent excuse; when, after a debate on the question, they fixed on the following question for next meeting, viz.: 'Whether an evil we foresee, which will very probably happen, or really felt, gives us most uneasiness.' The meeting to be November 27th, six o'clock, James Hunter, president. They also appointed James Hunter treasurer."

Nov. 27th.—This appeared at the hour appointed William Lindsay, Gilbert Burns, James Hunter, John Wilson, John Sillar, David Sillar; Ralph Sillar and James Wilson sent excuse. After discussing the question formerly proposed for that night they made choice of the following question for the ensuing meeting, viz.: 'Whether the man that engages on the following world than what will afford him a livelihood, or him that runs far as power and opportunity will admit, is most likely to be happy.' They appointed Tuesday, the 2nd of January, for next meeting. Gilbert Burns, president. John Stevenson's excuse appeared to have been sent timely, but was omitted to be given in.

1787.  
Jan. 2.—Gilbert Burns president—Subject debated: Terms of preceding minute, and new subject appointed for next meeting.  
Jan. 29.—Robert Paton—"Whether it is most proper for a man to go much into company or to be only with a few particular friends."

Feb. 16.—John Sillar—"Whether the love of fame or the love of wealth, when considered as the motive of our actions, is productive of the good consequences?"  
March 26.—John Wilson—"Whether smuggling under such a Government as ours may be said to be really a crime or not?"  
April 23.—James Hunter—"Whether it is proper for young people to attend at public meetings when not called by business, or not?"  
May 21.—James Hunter—"Whether in attending at public places it is proper to enter into the bustle of gallantry or not?"

June 16.—John Sillar—"Whether in the balancing the pleasures and troubles of life, when stripped of their connection with a future state, our life may be said to be a state desirable or not." The minute of this date has the following: "The Club have agreed to purchase a copy of the *Mirror* and *Lounger*, which amount to 17s. They advanced 17s each towards said purchase till such time as the funds of the club shall be able to repay them. Any member leaving the club before that time shall be allowed such a proportion of the money advanced as the club shall see equitable."

July 16.—John Wilson—"Whether in choosing a wife, men in general are most actuated by love or riches?"  
Aug. 20.—Gilbert Burns—"Whether love, in the present state of society, is productive of good or evil?"

Sept. 17.—James Hunter—"Whether real love is susceptible of change while the object of love is still continuing unaltered?"  
Oct. 28.—David Sillar—"Whether real love may be said to be an universal passion or not?"

Nov. 30.—Gilbert Burns—"Whether, if the labouring part of mankind were to conduct themselves on the strictest principles of economy, or on that present mode of action, it would be better for society in general?"  
Dec. 24.—John Wilson—"Whether a greater expenditure of mind and more universal knowledge would have a good effect on society, or otherwise?"

1788.  
Jan. 21.—Ralph Sillar—"Whether, if mankind were more nearly on a level, it would be better for society in general, or in the present state?" Under this date it is minutes: "The members present agreed that at next meeting they will settle upon such books as the money in the treasurer's hands will purchase."

Feb. 18.—John Stevenson—"Whether he with sets off human life in an agreeable point of view, or he who gives a gloomy representation of it, does most service to mankind?"  
March 17.—James Hunter—"Whether disappointment in love or the loss of fortune is the greatest evil?"

April 16.—James Hunter—"Whether, if a man is inclined to marry and has no particular person in view, it is proper to go to any public assembly to look out for a wife, or not?" Gilbert Burns sends excuse, being absent for the first time.

May 12.—William Paton—"Whether the man who embraces every opportunity of carrying on trade, or he who confines himself to a single branch of business, does most for society in general?" Gilbert Burns is again absent.

June 9.—Alex. Wilson—"Whether a friendship contracted between two young men may be impaired by a following attachment to a woman?"

July 7.—Gilbert Burns—"Whether a girl will be more happy to have her mind cultivated in the best manner or to receive the education common to her station in life?"

Aug. 5.—Members met but business adjourned.  
Sept. 2.—David Sillar—"Whether a man ought to defer marriage until he find a woman capable to be his bosom friend or not?"

Oct. 3.—John Wilson—"Whether the want of knowledge or the want of activity is the greatest hindrance to a man's progress in the world?"

Nov. 10.—William Lindsay—"By unanimous agreement of the members, the subject of last meeting is debated again."

Dec. 9.—Ralph Sillar—"Whether, if it is convenient for a man to marry, it is proper he should pay any attention to the female sex or not?"

1790.  
Jan. 5.—David Stevenson—"Whether if a man be resolved not to marry for some time, he should confine himself to one female or not?"

Feb. 2.—Gilbert Burns absent, and so no present; that meeting is postponed.  
March 2.—James Hunter—"Whether a man in the lower stations of life will be happier with a wife of reading and of a refined turn of mind, or one of just ordinary accomplishments?" The members agree that whoever does not bring in their books regularly every meeting shall pay one penny of fine."

April 6.—James Hunter—"Whether a parent in the lower stations acts more prudently to give his children all the education he can, or only what is ordinary?" Gilbert Burns absent.

May 4.—John Stevenson—"Whether a man will be better off with a good deal more education than what is necessary for the business he follows, or not?"

June 1.—David Sillar—"Whether it would be better for the generality of men to marry in early life when love first suggests to them that idea, to defer till a more mature age when circumstances in the world may be more favourable?"

June 23.—Gilbert Burns—"Whether there is not a certain time of life that a man should marry, or after that time he should give up all thoughts of marrying or not?"

July 7.—John Sillar—"Whether the young man acts most prudently who places his whole attention on gathering money, or he who in early life pays no more attention to money than serves his present necessity, but aims principally at improving his knowledge of the world and enjoying social life?"

Aug. 24.—Subject of last meeting again debated.

Oct. 18.—William Paton—"Whether the man of free open temper or the man most reserved is likely to make the most of his business?"

Nov. 2.—David Stevenson—"Whether if a man with a view to marriage means to make his address to a woman, he should begin with a declaration of his intentions, or not?"

Nov. 30.—William Morton—"Whether if a man has made his address to a woman and she has been consenting, his honour is bound to go on with the affair though he should find something in her which she did not before?" or vice versa? Gilbert Burns absent.

Dec. 21.—William Lindsay—"Whether people in the present state of the world are more happy with or without children?"

1790.  
Jan. 25.—Ralph Sillar—"Whether a graceful manner or a cultivated understanding is likely to do a man most good in the world?"

Feb. 22.—Gilbert Burns—"Whether in a young man's looking out for a wife he ought to be more guided by her fortune or her personal charms?"

March 22.—William Paton—"Whether town or country life is most calculated to improve the human mind?"

April 19.—John Sillar—"Whether the drunken husband or the scolding wife is most hurtful to domestic happiness?"

May 17.—So few present that debate is adjourned.

June 14.—James Wilson—"Whether a good mind will receive more pleasure from giving or receiving a favour?"

July 12.—Gilbert Burns, who had been appointed president for this meeting, sends excuse for absence. Subject discussed: "Whether each man should appear in the minutes after July 13, though he may have been present at some of the meetings of which the full adherent is not given."

Aug. 10.—Robert Andrew—"Whether it is proper for young people to read many novels or not?" It is here noted: "There appeared all the members happening to be in the place except James Hunter." The name of Gilbert Burns appears he has not appeared in the minutes after July 13, though he may have been present at some of the meetings of which the full adherent is not given."

Sept. 7.—William Morton—"Whether propriety or adversity be most dangerous to the interests of virtue among people in general?"

Oct. 20.—Alex. Miller—"Whether the virtuous part of mankind or those of an opposite character have generally the advantage of being prosperous in life?"

Nov. 23.—William Watson—"Whether it is more to communicate knowledge may be said to carry most pleasure to the mind?"

Dec. 31.—Andrew Morton—"Whether an eager desire after knowledge or after friendship is most laudable in young people?"

1791.  
Jan. 17.—Debate postponed.  
Feb. 14.—William Lindsay—"Whether marriages are most happy after long or short courtships?"

March 14.—David Sillar—"Which is most an elevated degree, or the most noble, or the most a feeling heart?" Gilbert Burns absent.

April 11.—John Sillar—"Whether the ties of blood, love, or friendship are stronger than those of duty?"

May 9.—James Wilson—"Whether great genius is more advantageous or disadvantageous to the possessor?"

June 12.—Gilbert Burns—"Whether town or country life is most favourable for the improvement of youth?" The members agree to purchase the *Spectator* and "The Man of Feeling."

July 4.—David Sillar—"Whether love, in the present state of society, is generally more productive of pain or pleasure?" Gilbert Burns absent.

Aug. 1.—John Begg—"Whether success or disappointment in love is most likely to corrupt the mind in youth?"

Aug. 29.—John Andrew—"Whether or not it is a man's power to make choice of the object of his love so as he may not be disappointed when he comes to possession?" Gilbert Burns absent from this and four following meetings.

Sept. 19.—Ralph Sillar—"Whether a man in the decline of life and very mean circumstances will be more happy in living by himself or with a wife and family?"

Oct. 31.—John Sillar—"Whether the sword or the pen has rendered men most famous in the world?"

Nov. 26.—Debate postponed.  
Dec. 26.—James Hunter—"Whether to one who knows about friendship, the decay of it, or to be without friendship altogether, will be most disagreeable?"

1792.  
Jan. 30.—James Wilson—"Whether self-interest or meanness of mind is the most despicable character?"

Feb. 27.—William Lindsay—"Whether there is greater vanity in imposing upon ourselves or on others with regard to the merit of our own character?"

March 26.—John Andrew—"Whether an evil in expectation that will probably happen or an evil in experience will give most uneasiness?" Gilbert Burns absent from this and three following meetings.

April 23.—John Begg—"Whether he who lives contentedly in his situation he happens to be in, or he who endeavours to improve it as much as he can, is most likely to be happy?"

May 21.—David Stevenson—"Whether an active or more indolent mind will feel most from disappointment?"

June 18.—Robert Andrew—"Whether the male or the female sex is supposed to be most steady in their affection?" Minute of this meeting lost.

July 16.—William Morton—"Whether the allocation of mind in man or woman is most exact?"

Aug. 13.—John Begg—"Whether marriages made in early life while the affections are warm, and the male at a tender age of life, are most likely to be happy?" Gilbert Burns absent from this and two following meetings.

Sept. 10.—John Sillar—"Whether the happiness of marriages in general is more owing to love or prudence?"

Oct. 28.—James Hunter—"Whether there is greater impropriety in confiding in our neighbours too rashly or in indulging too much caution?"

Nov. 26.—David Sillar—"Whether trouble of mind or trouble of body is most prejudicial to the constitution?"

Dec. 24.—Arch. Woodburn—"Whether a Republican form of Government or a mixed Monarchy is best?"

1793.  
Jan. 21.—Gilbert Burns—"Whether it is probable, if a Republican form of Government were to take place, it would tend to more happiness for the present generation?"

Feb. 18.—William Paton—"Whether training a young man to Agriculture or to Manufacture will tend more to his health and happiness?"

March 18.—David Sillar—"Whether the present state with France may be supposed to turn out for or against the cause of liberty?"

April 15.—Arch. Woodburn—"Whether farming is likely to become a better or a worse business from the present appearance of circumstances?"

May 13.—James Wilson—"Whether farmers fifty years ago may be said to have been happier than they are at present?" Gilbert Burns absent.

June 10.—John Begg—"Whether friendship is often hurt by pride or indifference?"

July 8.—William Lindsay—"Whether pride or indifference does most hurt to the present passion?"

Aug. 19.—James Hunter—"From the present disagreeable appearance of things, whether may be most probable a married or a single life?" Gilbert Burns absent from this and four following meetings. The members agree that at next meeting they should bring their books to the club and have some regulations made about them."

Sept. 16.—David Stevenson—"Whether the female sex in general are most hurt by being too reserved or too forward?" Agreed that "any members in future being absent and having any of the Society's books in possession and not sending them shall pay 1d of fine for each."

Oct. 28.—William Paton—"Whether it is generally an advantage for young men to get very early into business?"

Nov. 16.—John Sillar—"Whether with people in general the knowledge of themselves or of their neighbours is the more difficult?"

Dec. 18.—James Hunter—"Whether liberty or reputation is most dear to the mind of man?"

1794.  
Jan. 13.—Attendance so small that debate is postponed.

Feb. 10.—John Begg—"Whether a man in love who has but little hope of success would rather live on that little than get a fair denial?"

March 10.—William Paton—"Whether on

the present critical condition of affairs in the nation it is proper for people publicly to give their opinion?"

April 7.—Debate adjourned.  
May 5.—Robert Andrew—"Whether in the case of those who think the Government of this country corrupted it is more proper to stay in it and endeavour to have it reformed, or leave it for a country where a better Government exists?" Gilbert Burns absent from this and two following meetings.

June 2.—William Watson—"Whether a pure Government is more necessary for a knowing or an ignorant people?"

July 2.—Debate postponed.  
July 28.—David Stevenson—"Whether men's actions in general are more influenced by interest or reputation?"

Aug. 25.—James Hunter—"Whether love or hatred may lead to the greatest extremities?"

Oct. 6.—Debate postponed.  
Nov. 3.—Andrew Morton—"Whether the warm and enthusiastic in love or they who are more cold and moderate are likely to be most steady in life?" Gilbert Burns absent.

Dec. 1.—William Lindsay—"Whether unbounded confidence or real esteem is the more valuable ingredient in friendship?"

Dec. 23.—John Sillar—"Whether prosperity or adversity is most likely to cause keenness of pursuit after their business in the minds of men in general?" Gilbert Burns absent from this and the two following meetings.

1795.  
Jan. 26.—David Sillar—Members "thinking they had done justice to the former question" discuss it again.

Feb. 23.—Robert Andrew—"Whether extraordinary or ordinary keenness in business is generally attended with greatest success?"

March 21.—William Lindsay—"Whether friends of opinion among mankind are more generally esteemed by the natural frame of their minds or by their education?"

April 30.—Ralph Sillar—"Whether in a young woman a comely face or a handsome form is most to be admired?"

May 18.—For this meeting Gilbert Burns had been appointed president. The minute bears: "So few members attended that they thought it proper to defer the discussion of the question in Sept. 14th June, when the president having forgot to attend they could do no other business than to appoint next meeting to be on 13th July."

July 13.—Gilbert Burns—"Whether in educating a young man for the world it is better to repress or encourage the natural warmth of his feelings?"

Aug. 10.—Robert Andrew—"Whether it is proper for young people to read many novels or not?" It is here noted: "There appeared all the members happening to be in the place except James Hunter." The name of Gilbert Burns appears he has not appeared in the minutes after July 13, though he may have been present at some of the meetings of which the full adherent is not given."

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Dec. 31.—Andrew Morton—"Whether an eager desire after knowledge or after friendship is most laudable in young people?"

1796.  
Jan. 18.—William Watson—"Whether it is reasonable for parents to confine their daughters from the company of young men till they be of proper age to marry, or not?"

Feb. 16.—William Lindsay—"Whether entire confidence in revealing or faithfulness in keeping secrets is the most valuable quality of friendship?"

March 17.—John Sillar—"Whether it is more consistent with love to respect or to respect our rivals?"

April 11.—Andrew Morton—"Whether a woman may be said to make a man more happy in the married life who soon gives consent, or the who puts off the business for a long time?"

May 9.—William Lindsay—"Whether a man is much in love with little hopes of success, it is better to persevere in his addresses or else his doubts and fears."

June 6.—David Sillar—"Whether when a man is courting a woman it is better to pay his visits in a public or a private manner?"

July 4.—James Hunter—"Whether women of a very anxious or of a very gay turn of mind may be said to be most agreeable companions?"

Aug. 2.—William Morton—"Whether young people at first outset, or when more advanced in life, are more likely to be most constant in love?"

Aug. 29.—William Marr—"Whether there is generally more happiness in the prospect or in the reality of love?"

Sept. 29.—William Wilson—"Whether love before or after marriage is more likely to be attended with great happiness?"

Oct. 31.—Alex. Miller—"Whether the disposition of candour is oftentimes the effect of good sense or of other good dispositions of the







Burns Manuscripts on offer to Kilmarnock Town Council  
12<sup>th</sup> November 1892.

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## The Cumnock Express

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### BURNS MSS. AND JAMES MACKENZIE.

SIR,—I have just seen the letter which Mr James Stillie, the well-known Edinburgh bookseller, has addressed to you anent the Burns MSS. correspondence and Mr Mackenzie, and should like to say a few words in reference to it. Mr Stillie says "your correspondent has written a novel criticism upon an unseen document." Let Mr Stillie read the correspondence again, and in its entirety, and he will see that the grave doubts expressed by your nameless correspondent are, so far, chiefly based on the style and composition of the MS. Mr James Mackenzie may be known to Mr James Stillie as a "high-class amateur MSS. collector." I do not question it; but it does not appear to be disputed that his name is associated with the sale of the "Rillbank Crescent Letters." I again challenge him to send his "John Hill letter" to the British Museum authorities for their opinion as to its authenticity, or, if he prefers it, to the Advocates' Library, Edinburgh, which, I may remind him, is but a stone's throw from his address in Forrest Road; and if the judgment of either authority does not confirm the strong opinion, amounting to conviction, held by the nameless correspondent referred to, myself, and many others, that the MS. in question must be classed with the "Rillbank Crescent Letters" as spurious, I will give to the Kilmarnock Federation of Burns Clubs the sum of £5 (five pounds). It would appear from the correspondence that this is the third time Mr Mackenzie has been so challenged. When I made such a proposal to him personally he pooch-pooched it, alleging that the opinion of the British Museum was "laughed at in Edinburgh," but I can assure him that whatever view it pleases him to take on the subject, such opinion has weight with the great majority of private collectors, and that a public service would be rendered by obtaining it on the John Hill letter, ere it finds its way to the mart. Surely it will be open to comment if a collector who, as Mr Stillie says, "would never keep a doubtful MS.," does not, by accepting my offer at once, satisfy the doubts cast on that in question, and benefit the Federation, in which, having regard to its objects, he cannot fail to be interested? Much as I venerate age and good repute, I cannot accept Mr Stillie's opinion as conclusive; nor is it the first time that I have ventured to be at variance with him on the authenticity of Burns MSS., as correspondence in my possession shows.

Thanking you, sir, in anticipation of the insertion of this letter, I am, etc.,

H. D. COLVILL-SCOTT.

The Mount, Brookwood, Surrey.

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and the calm composure and easy go-  
 which characterise him produce wi-  
 kindly feeling towards him. He led  
 and useful life, and to his credit it  
 said that he makes very little no-  
 world. But he is none the less  
 honourable mention that his best q-  
 only known and properly valued by  
 have the most intimate acquaintance  
 private character and life. Noise  
 attract the crowd and pass for n-

The Very Rev. John Marshall Lang, D.D., 5 Woodlands Terrace.  
William Laird, 168 West George Street.

Wm. Young, R.S.W., 65 West Regent Street.

N.B.—A further circular, with a complete list of the various Committees, will be issued at an early date.



Burns Manuscripts on offer to Holmarnock Town Council.  
12<sup>th</sup> November 1892.

UP. Another question upon which we had last some stress at the election was that standard rate of wages be paid to workmen engaged in town's contracts. He had moved a motion to that effect but it was not carried. On the question of the public health the Council had been forced to take some rather extreme measures. When they came into office they found the sanitation of the burgh not in a very good way, but after the improvements that had been carried out they might look for a fairly good bill of health for the winter. With regard to cleansing he thought the present system was scarcely satisfactory, and, personally, it would be a very great economic consideration that would induce him to vote for again letting the work out to contract. As to the town under conditions as to rates and way leave, and if it did not succeed then the public would not be at any loss. He was not disposed to go in for the electric light in the meantime, as he had not heard of one shopkeeper who would take it if it was introduced. They had no drainage scheme before them at present, but a scheme for the concentration of the drains on the beach was brought up in the Council last year, and carried on to the beginning of this year, but so far as he knew it had been shelved. He believed a drainage scheme for the whole burgh would cost not less than £50,000. Some of the drains in the town were bad, while others were extremely good, and on account of the few bad drains. What was perhaps more wanted was the proper ventilation and flushing of the drains, as it was the bad gas in the drains that caused the nuisance. The drains, comparatively speaking, were working quite well. Under the new Police Act, which comes into vogue next May, owners of property must keep up their footpaths in such a manner as the Commissioners should direct, and after that the Commissioners would have to keep them up. He was of opinion that the medical officer's reports should be published, as it was the only way the public had of knowing the state of health of the burgh. Questions having been invited, Mr J. WILSON asked if the representatives were still in favour of having the Council meetings at night? Bailie TEMPLETON said he was in favour of having them at night, as they suited him better than having them during the day. Mr MORTON said he voted for evening meetings as he wanted to see if they would be an improvement on the old order of things. Well as a matter of fact, the most of the work of the Council was done through the day. He would be inclined to revert to the old system. Mr MERCER said he was against evening meetings, having a knowledge of the working of the Council. He had seen nothing to make him alter his opinion. Evening meetings had not been a success, as they had created far more talk than formerly. Mr BEVERIDGE, Chemist, asked if the representatives were in favour of memorialising the Railway Company to take down the dead wall opposite the Burns Statue and asking them to put up a railing in harmony with the railing round the Statue? Bailie TEMPLETON said he was in favour of that.

right of the Preface to the Holmarnock Edition to the end, asking his friend, Mr Robert Wilson, John Wilson, printer, Holmarnock, 1786, to send Autographs. Docketed—William Creech & M. Heron. 1st Dedication of his Poems, sent to his friends. 1786. This Poem was inserted in the 1<sup>st</sup> of 9 folio leaves, with two Autographs. R. Heron Mackenzie from John Wilson, Holmarnock. 1st of Ten of his Earliest Poems and Songs, Milton, Esq. Manchester and my other friends. The following effusions for his kindly criticism. 1st: Dedication to the Noblemen and Gentlemen of Edinburgh, 4<sup>th</sup> April 1787, for Creech's Poems. Consists of 3 folio leaves and two

Burns, which includes a copy of for printing Burns's First Edition at Holmarnock.

manuscript of his introduction to the Holmarnock Edition. It was sent by Wilson to William.

The seller states: These are the earliest and finest collection I have ever seen. Burns wrote his chief works on one side for the printer. Henry Mackenzie bound all his Manuscripts this way.



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1. Burns' Original Manuscript of the Preface to the Kilmarnock Edition of his Poems, with a note at the end, asking his friend, Mr Robert Bell for a criticism. Sent to John Wilson, Printer, Kilmarnock, 1786. Consists of 16 leaves, with two Autographs. Docketed - William Creech & R. Nelson.
2. Burns' Original Manuscript Dedication of his Poems, sent to his friend, Gavin Hamilton, Writer, Manichline 1786. This Poem was inserted in the body of his Poems. Consists of 9 folio leaves, with two Autographs. Docketed - William Creech, R. Nelson. Mackenzie, from John Wilson, Kilmarnock.
3. Burns' Original Manuscript of Ten of his Earliest Poems and Songs, sent to his friend, Gavin Hamilton, Esq. Manichline and my other friends there. A present with diffidence the following effusions for his kindly criticism. Glasgow Jan. 1786. Consists of 32 folio leaves, with two Autographs. Docketed - R. H., see letter by John Hamilton to Mr Creech; Mackenzie, Glasgow.
4. Burns' Original Manuscript: Dedication to the Noblemen and Gentlemen of the Caledonian Hunt, Edinburgh, 4<sup>th</sup> April 1787, for Creech's first Edinburgh Edition of Burns' Poems. Consists of 3 folio leaves and has one Autograph.
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1. Burns' Original Manuscript of the Preface to the Kilmarnock 1<sup>st</sup> Edition of his Poems, with a note at the end, asking his friend, Mr. Robert Allan, for a criticism. Sent to John Wilson, printer, Kilmarnock, 1786. Consists of 4 folio leaves, with two Autographs. Docketed - William Creech & R. Heron.
2. Burns' Original Manuscript Dedication of his Poems, sent to his friend, Gavin Hamilton, Writer, Mauchline, 1786. This Poem was inserted in the body of his Poems, consists of 9 folio leaves, with two Autographs. Docketed - William Creech, R. Heron Mackenzie from John Wilson, Kilmarnock.
3. Burns' Original Manuscript of Ten of his Earliest Poems and Songs, sent to his friend, Gavin Hamilton, Esq., Mauchline and my other friends there. A present with diffidence, the following effusions for his kindly criticism. Moorsgeil, Jan'y. 1786. Consists of 32 folio leaves, with two Autographs. Docketed - R. H., see letter by John Hamilton to W. Creech; Mackenzie, "Loranger".
4. Burns' Original Manuscript: Dedication to the Noblemen and Gentlemen of the Caledonian Hunt, Edinburgh, 4<sup>th</sup> April 1787, for Creech's first Edinburgh Edition of Burns' Poems. Consists of 3 folio leaves and has one Autograph.
5. Manuscript Letter of Burns, which includes a copy of Wilson's settled Account for printing Burns' first Edition at Kilmarnock.
6. Burns' Original Manuscript of his introduction to the Kilmarnock first Edition of his Poems. It was sent by Wilson to William Creech, bookseller.

The seller states "These are the earliest and finest collection I have ever seen. Burns wrote his chief works on one side for the printer. Henry Mackenzie bound all his Manuscripts this way".



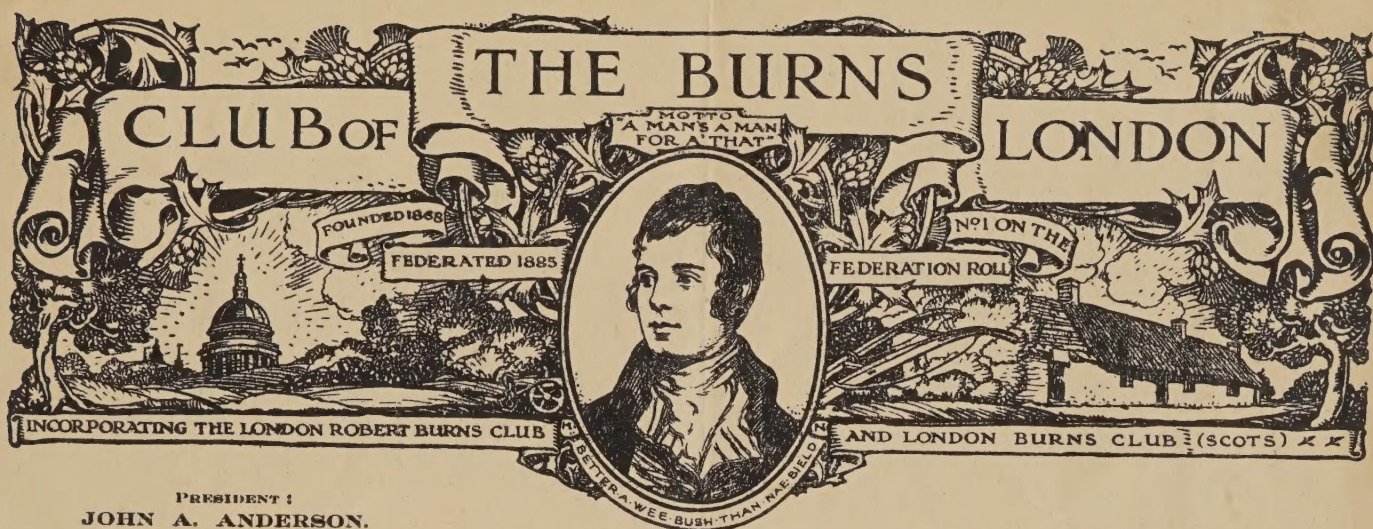
**General Committee** (as at present organised).

THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF BURNS FEDERATION, AND THE PRESIDENTS, VICE-PRESIDENTS, AND SECRETARIES OF THE FEDERATED CLUBS ARE, *ex officio*, MEMBERS OF THIS COMMITTEE:—

*Members of the Executive Council of the Burns Federation.*

*President*—Peter Sturrock, Esq., Kilmarnock. *Vice-Presidents*—R. W. Cochran Patrick, Esq., LL.D.; Edward Combes, Esq., C.M.G.; Rev. William Dunnett, M.A.; Robert Goudie, Esq., Ayr; Colin Rae-Brown, Esq. *Honorary Secretary*—Captain David Sneddon. *Honorary Treasurer*—Captain Arthur Sturrock, Kilmarnock. *Editor, "Annual Burns Chronicle"*—D. M'Naught, Esq., J.P. *Members*—Provost David Mackenzie, Glasgow; Dr. James Adams, W. Craib, Angus; John Newlands, Esq., Dundee; Dr. James Adams, W. Craib, Angus.





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WILLIAM H. HARRIES, F.C.I.S.

TELEPHONE: VALENTINE 3702.

11, THE DRIVE,

ILFORD,

ESSEX.

9, Woodlands,  
Golders Green,  
N.W.11.

10th June, 1929.

Dear Mr. Scott,

I have the pleasure to inform you that at the meeting of my Council on Friday last you were unanimously and cordially elected to the vacancy on the Council caused by the translation of Mr. J.B. Rintoul to the Vice-President's Chair.

I shall be glad to hear that you are willing to give us your assistance.

I am, and remain,

Yours faithfully,

Hon. Secretary.



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